

COMMISSION CONNECTION

Winter/Spring 2002

Newsletter of the Kentucky Commission on Women
Strengthening Kentucky by Strengthening Kentucky's Women

Hundreds of Kentuckians work to make REAL improvements in the lives of Kentucky women

When Governor Paul E. Patton announced the appointment of the Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women this past November, the 49 members were given a tall order (see page two for a list of members). The Task Force, managed by the Kentucky Commission on Women (KCW), is charged with examining the issues that are obstacles to the economic progress of Kentucky women, identifying solutions, and developing a plan of action to improve the economic status of women in the Commonwealth.

While this is a huge task, the Task Force members are a formidable group. And over the next ten months they will be assisted by hundreds of knowledgeable volunteers who are members of five Issue Committees addressing topics integral to improving women's lives: Education and Leadership, Economic Development and Employment, Women in Positions of Power, Social and Cultural Barriers, and the unique needs of State Government Employees. Their charge is to identify challenges, conduct research, and brainstorm solutions for recommendation to the Task Force. Each committee is led by two co-chairs (see photo) who will guide the process. The committees began meeting in December and will meet once a month through October 2002, reporting their progress to the Task Force throughout the year.

Early last fall, KCW called upon Kentuckians to become involved in this important opportunity and the response has been tremendous, with over 450 women and men from around the state volunteering to serve. These volunteers represent over 60 Kentucky counties and all walks of life, from CEOs to educators to homemakers. They have committed to traveling to Frankfort every month for committee meetings and conducting research back in their home



The Co-chairs of the Issue Committees of the Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women pose for a photo at the office of the Kentucky Commission on Women.

Clockwise from bottom right: Nancy Laprade (Committee on Economic Development and Employment), Margaret Daniel (Committee on State Government Employees), Dr. Wanda Lott Collins (Committee on Social and Cultural Barriers), Stacy Street (Committee on Education and Leadership), Dr. Judy Rogers (Committee on Education and Leadership), Kathy Plomin (Committee on Women in Positions of Power), and Alice Baesler (Committee on Women in Positions of Power). *Not shown:* Betsie Carroll (Committee on Economic Development and Employment), Linda Gayheart (Committee on Social and Cultural Barriers), and Priscilla Johnson (Committee on State Government Employees)

communities.

The Task Force will meet for the final time in November 2002, at which time they will complete their plan of action for presentation to Governor Patton. The findings of the Task Force will be released in the spring of 2003 at the first annual Governor's Summit on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women, hosted by KCW.

To follow the progress of the Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women, keep reading the *Commission Connection*, and visit the KCW Web site at <http://women.state.ky.us>.

From Faces and Facts to the Commission Connection: KCW changes newsletter name

In the 2001 summer edition of *Faces and Facts*, KCW announced the "Name Our Newsletter" contest. We received several creative entries from around the state and we would like to thank those of you who wrote and called us with your ideas for the newsletter name.

After much deliberation, the staff decided to return to a name from our past, *Commission Connection*. Since one of KCW's goals is to connect women and groups from across the Commonwealth together to share resources, ideas, and experiences it seemed a fitting choice.

Again, thanks to all who sent in ideas for the newsletter name. We always welcome input from newsletter readers.

Members of the Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women

First Lady Judi Patton, *Honorary Co-Chair*, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Frankfort

Governor Martha Layne Collins, *Honorary Co-Chair*, Georgetown College, Georgetown

Donna Peden, *Vice Chair*, KCW Member, Nicholasville

Dr. Bill Brundage, Kentucky Innovations Commission, Frankfort

Deputy Secretary Singer Buchanan Personnel Cabinet, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Frankfort

Kevin Canifax, Fidelity Investment, Covington

Judith Clabes, Scripps-Howard Foundation, Ft. Mitchell

Beverly Martin Daly, Kentucky State Data Center, Louisville

Dr. Gordon Davies, Council on Post-Secondary Education, Frankfort

Dawn Davis, Xodiac Internet Data Centers, Louisville

Doris Deuth, Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women, Pewee Valley

Andy Downs, KY Chamber of Commerce, Frankfort

Representative Jon Draud, Crestview Hills

Virginia Fox, Kentucky Educational Television, Lexington

Mike Hammons, Forward Quest, Covington

Audrey Tayse Haynes, Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Frankfort

Secretary Marlene Helm, Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet, Frankfort

Mary Hemmer, Hemmer Construction, Edgewood

Judge Margaret R. Huddleston Warren County Family Court, Bowling Green

Martha Johnson, Ashland Inc. Foundation, Covington



Members of the Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women at the press conference on November 16, 2001. Seated are Governor Martha Layne Collins, Governor Paul E. Patton, and First Lady Judi Patton.

Eleanor Jordan, Cabinet for Families and Children, Frankfort

Carol Jordan, Governor's Office of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Services, Frankfort

Senator David Karem, Louisville

Secretary Crit Luallen, Executive Cabinet, Frankfort

Representative Mary Lou Marzian, Louisville

Gwen Mayes, Office of Women's Physical and Mental Health, Frankfort

Marion McAleer, US Army & Armor Center, Fort Knox

Dr. Michael McCall, KCTCS, Lexington

Treasurer Jonathan Miller, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Frankfort

Secretary Viola Miller, Cabinet for Families and Children, Frankfort

Elaine (Cissy) Musselman, Risk Management Services, Louisville

Latondra Newton, Toyota Motor Manufacturing KY, Inc., Erlanger

Secretary Joe Norsworthy, Labor Cabinet, Frankfort

Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo, Kentucky General Assembly, Lexington

Nicki Patton, Kentucky Democratic Party, Frankfort

Jim Purgerson, Ashland Alliance, Ashland

Secretary Allen Rose, Cabinet for Workforce Development, Frankfort

Chris Sanders, AFL-CIO, Frankfort

Amy Scarborough, BellSouth, Richmond

Michal Smith Mello, KLTPRC, Frankfort

Representative Kathy Stein, Lexington

Jane Stephenson, Steele-Reese Foundation, Lexington

Secretary Marvin E. Strong, Cabinet for Economic Development, Frankfort

Dr. Kim Townley, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, Frankfort

Beverly Watts, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, Louisville

Representative Robin Webb, Grayson

Representative Barbara White Colter, Manchester

Ellen Williams, Republican Party of Kentucky, Frankfort

Steve Zea, West Kentucky Corporation, Murray

Women's History Month: a celebration of women

Celebrations of women's contributions to history began long before Congress declared the first Women's History Month 15 years ago. International Women's Day, the first day designated to honor women's achievements, began in Europe on March 8, 1911. Women's rights was a political hot topic at the time because suffrage was a priority of many women's organizations and private citizens.

Interest in the topic waned during the Great Depression and World War II but the movement did not die. By the end of the 1960s interest in women's issues and women's history had blossomed. Many sensed that the history taught in public schools was not adequately addressing women's contributions and achievements. The call to teach about black Americans and Native Americans helped underscore that women were invisible in most history courses.

To encourage the teaching of women's history, the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women began a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. Schools began to host their own weeklong programs and the idea soon spread outside of California.

Other participants not only began local projects, but also agreed to support an effort to have Congress declare a national Women's History Week. The United States Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week in 1981.

This encouraged even wider participation in Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month and has issued a resolution every year since then for Women's History Month. The President also issues a proclamation annually declaring March as Women's History Month.

The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history: to take one month of the year to remember the contributions of notable and ordinary women. We encourage you to learn more about women's influence on the history of all people. Women's history isn't just for women, although many women find that studying women's history helps them realize that a woman's place is everywhere.

Kentucky Women Remembered adds three new portraits to exhibit and honors Delahanty, Little, West

On March 1, 2002 Governor and Mrs. Patton unveiled the three newest portraits to be included in the *Kentucky Women Remembered* watercolor exhibit. The ceremony took place in the Capitol Rotunda and marked the kick-off of Women's History Month in the Commonwealth.

The 2002 honorees are as follows:

- **Dolores Delahanty** (Jefferson County) is an advocate for women's and children's rights and her history of public service in Kentucky includes over four decades of leadership and activism. Her involvement in the early civil rights movement spawned her passion for women's participation in leadership roles and elected office. She was instrumental in the passage of Kentucky's Fair Credit Law and was a founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus.
- **Lucille Caudill Little** (Fayette County) has contributed much to the performing arts and various institutions throughout Kentucky. An accomplished singer, she studied at Julliard before returning to Kentucky and becoming an enthusiastic supporter of the arts. Her numerous civic contributions includes serving as Founder and former Director of the Lexington Children's Theatre and Studio Players and Founder of the Bluegrass Girl Scout Council. To date, Ms. Little has given more than \$21 million to area arts and education causes.
- **Judge Judy Moberly West** (Kenton County) was the first woman appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals. She served as District Judge in the Kenton District Court for three terms until her Appeals Court appointment. In addition to her judicial accomplishments, Judge West served as President and Founder of the Hope Cottage Guild and on the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence.

KCW created the original *Kentucky Women Remembered* exhibit in 1978. It includes watercolor portraits of outstanding women in Kentucky history and serves to educate Kentuckians about women's contributions to the Commonwealth. In 1996, with the support of Governor Patton and the Kentucky General Assembly, the *Kentucky Women Remembered* exhibit found a permanent home in the west wing of the State Capitol. Acknowledging that we have no shortage of outstanding women, each year KCW selects up to three women to be inducted into the exhibit from those nominated by Kentucky citizens. Please visit the KCW website at <http://women.state.ky.us> to view all of the *Kentucky Women Remembered* portraits and pictures from the 2002 unveiling.

The KCW Kentucky Women Remembered Committee selected Kentucky artist Alison Davis Lyne to paint the three 2002 portraits. Ms. Lyne lives and works with her husband, sculptor Frank Lyne, on their farm in Logan County. She works as a freelance illustrator specializing in historical illustrations. She has illustrated magazine covers, short stories, and most recently a children's book. More of her work can be seen at www.lyneart.com.

KCW appreciates the generous support of our *Kentucky Women Remembered* sponsors: American Electric Power, Kentucky Education Association, Kentucky Foundation for Women, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

KCW listserv and web site are for you

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to sign up for the KCW listserv so that you can stay up-to-date on what's happening with women around the Commonwealth. Please sign up by sending a request to lyris@listserv.state.ky.us with "subscribe kentuckywomen" in the body (without the quotation marks). Please delete any automatic signature that appears in your email.

Also, please be sure to make frequent visits to the KCW website, <http://women.state.ky.us>. We make regular changes to the site so that we can help keep you informed of what's happening and where to find the best resources for your needs.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WOMENS' HISTORY MONTH and Beyond

- March 8-10 **"The Images of Southern Women in Film"** at the Kentucky History Center. Times and films vary. Suggested donation \$5. Contact Joanie DiMartino, 502/564-1792 ext. 4467 or joan.dimartino@mail.state.ky.us
- March 13-15 **Southeast Regional Training Program** sponsored by the Derby City Chapter of Federally Employed Women, Inc. Visit www.lrl.usace.army.mil/few/ for more information.
- March 14 **"Ten Kentucky Women Who Have Changed Your Life: Hattie B. Speed, Bea Johnston, bell hooks, and Others."** Lecture/potluck, 5:30p.m., Project Women, 806 East Chestnut Street, Louisville (back door). Jennifer R. Jewell, 502/533-5366, jjewell506@juno.com
- March 14 **Women's Studies Film Series: Women Directors at Work on Comedy** at Ekstrom Library Auditorium, U of L campus, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Rose Troche, *Go Fish* (1994). Contact Dawn Heinecken, 852-8160, d0hein01@louisville.edu
- March 18 **Women of the 15th State** at Highland Women's Center, Louisville, potluck: 6:15p.m., readings 7:15p.m. Free. Readings of 6 new plays about historic Kentucky women by Nancy Gall-Clayton, directed by Kathi E.B. Ellis. Contact nancygallclayton@earthlink.net.
- March 20 **Luncheon featuring Louisville native Melissa Thornton**, former director of women's outreach for Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate campaign, U of L University Club, 11:30 a.m. Contact Lisa Huber, 502-852-7976, lisahuber@louisville.edu
- March 20 **Women's Enterprise Wednesday Roundtable** at Midway College, Marrs Hall, 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. Contact Nicole Bryan at 859/846 5800.
- March 21-24, 29-31 **Machinal** by Sophie Treadwell at MeX Theatre, Kentucky Center for the Arts, times vary. Contact Emily Gnadinger, 502-899-3811, pleiades theatrec@aol.com or call 502-584-7777, 502-361-3100, 1-800-775-7777 or visit the Center's web site at www.kentuckycenter.org.
- March 22 **"Left Behind: Women and Poverty,"** Interfaith Center, 12:00 noon. Contact Jennifer R. Jewell, 502/533-5366 or jewell506@juno.com.
- March 23 **Bluegrass Women's Political Caucus (BWPC) Annual Political Academy** Holiday Inn North, Lexington, 8:30a.m.-3:15p.m. Cost is \$40.00. Fees for students will be \$20.00. For more information, please contact Patricia Hayden at pwhayden@aol.com.
- March 28 **Women's Studies Film Series. Mira Nair. The Perez Family** (1995), Ekstrom Library Auditorium, U of L campus, 4:30-7:00p.m. Contact Dawn Heinecken, 852-8160, d0hein01@louisville.edu.
- March 28 **"Kentucky Women: Our Impact Today and in the Future"** with Betsy Nowland-Curry, Executive Director of KCW, at Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus, Masterson's Restaurant, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Call 502/ 968-3194 for reservations and information.
- April 4 **Women's Studies Film Series: Women Directors at Work on Comedy.** Penelope Spheeris, *Wayne's World* (1992) at Ekstrom Library Auditorium, U of L Campus, 4:30-7:00p.m. Contact Dawn Heinecken, 852-8160, d0hein01@louisville.edu
- April 4-6 **Moving the Borders: the 23rd Annual Kentucky Women Writers Conference**, Lexington. Includes a pre-conference workshop, April 3, in editing and publishing. For details, contact KWWC, PO Box 1042, Lexington, KY 40588, or www.carnegieliteracy.org/kywwc.htm and kywwc@hotmail.com
- April 6 **Shaped by Water 2: Conference for Women of Eastern Kentucky**, Hyden, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Please contact Pat Banks at 859/527-3334 or patbanks@ipro.net, Judy Sizemore at 606/364-5831 or circuit@prtcnet.org, or Gabrielle Beasley at 606/672-2763 or gbeasley@tds.net.
- April 14 **Girl Scouts 90th Anniversary Celebration** at Victorian Square, Lexington, 1:30-5:00 p.m. Contact the Wilderness Road Girl Scout Council at 800/475-2621 or gswrc@gswrc.org for more information.
- April 16 **Pay Equity Day**, contact KCW for information at 502/564-6643 or <http://women.state.ky.us>.
- April 19-20 **Kentucky Federated Woman's Club Annual Meeting**, Louisville. Contact Donna Shortfor more information at 859/223-9276.
- April 25 **So Proudly We Serve: Kentucky Women in the Military**, exhibit opening, Kentucky Military History Museum, Old State Arsenal, Frankfort. Contact KCW for more information at 502/564-6643 or <http://women.state.ky.us>
- April 25 - **"Stopping Domestic Violence"** with Pat Byron and Marcia Roth of the Mary Byron Foundation, Inc. at Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus, Masterson's Restaurant, 5:30-7:00p.m. Call 502/968-3194 for reservations and information.
- April 26 **Take Our Daughters to Work Day**, National Observance. Contact KCW for info on the Kentucky observance at <http://women.state.ky.us> or 502/564-6643.
- April 26-27 **Making a Difference: Kentucky Women in Politics in Government**, Kentucky History Center, Frankfort. Symposium sponsored by the Kentucky Commission on Women and the Kentucky Historical Society. \$15. Contact KCW for details: <http://women.state.ky.us/> or 502-564-6643.
- May 23 - **Gwen Mayes, Director, Kentucky Office of Women's Physical and Mental Health** Metropolitan Louisville Women's Political Caucus, Masterson's Restaurant, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Call 502/968-3194 for reservations and information.

The University of Louisville Women's Center and Women's Studies Program has a variety of events and programs scheduled to celebrate Women's History Month. For a complete list call 502/852-8160 or visit www.louisville.edu/a-s/ws/.

May is Women's Health Month. Please visit the website of the Office of Women's Physical and Mental Health at <http://chs.state.ky.us/womenshealth/> for a listing of events or contact the office at 502/564-9358.

What to Watch and Why We're Watching: KCW Legislative Update

Due to the rapidly changing events in the Kentucky legislature, KCW will not publish a legislative update in this edition of the *Commission Connection*. We encourage you to visit our website at <http://women.state.ky.us> to view our picks for bills that may be of interest. As always, we urge you to become involved in the political process by contacting your legislators about issues important to you. Visit the Legislative Research Commission website at www.lrc.state.ky.us for a full report on all bills filed in the 2002 General Assembly. Please note that the Kentucky Commission on Women will not be holding a Launching Women Lobbyists workshop this year, so plan to attend the informative workshop on the second day of the April 26-27 symposium to learn about how you can become involved in politics on a personal level.

Register now for ***Making a Difference: Kentucky Women in Politics and Government***

The Kentucky Commission on Women and the Kentucky Historical Society have partnered to present a two-day symposium, *Making A Difference: Women in Politics and Government*, on **April 26-27, 2002 at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort**. The focus of the symposium will be to utilize history to inform women about how to become more involved in both public service and the political process. The symposium will include panel discussions, keynote speakers, and workshops along with a "Meet the Speakers" reception, exhibits, and other multi-media elements.

On Friday you can expect to hear the stories of some of Kentucky's most well known women in politics and government, past and present. Learn how and why they came to hold their current positions, how they got started in politics and government, and the advice they have to offer to women just starting out.

Saturday morning's program will provide hands-on information about keeping *your* history—such as letters, photographs, and memorabilia—safe for future generations and how you can become involved in the political process whether by voting, lobbying, running for office, or being appointed to a position in government.

Friday's keynote speakers are Secretary Crit Luallen, Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet and the highest-ranking appointed official in Kentucky State Government, and Linda Kerber, May Brodbeck Professor in the Liberal Arts and Professor of History at the University of Iowa.

Other speakers throughout the two-day event include: Senator Georgia Powers, Governor Martha Layne Collins, female members of the General Assembly, Audrey Tayse Haynes, Hilda Legg, Eleanor Jordan, Ellen Williams, and Nicki Patton.

On Friday night Kentucky women's organizations from around the state will host

a *Meet the Speakers* reception. Expect music, hors d'oeuvres, and the chance to learn about organizations that fight for the causes important to you!

Registration for *Making a Difference* is \$15 for Friday and Saturday (including lunch on Friday and the Friday night reception), and \$5 for Saturday only.

In conjunction with this event, the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Commission on Women present *The Fight for Suffrage: A Selection from the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Trust*. This exhibit can be viewed in Commonwealth Hall of the Kentucky History Center throughout the months of March and April. An opening reception for this exhibit was held on March 7 at the Kentucky History Center. Carolyn S. Bratt, W.L. Mathews Professor of Law, University of Kentucky served as guest speaker and presented "*Failure is Impossible*" ...but, *Success Remains Illusive: Why The Vote Was Not Enough*.

For more information about these events please visit the KCW Web site at <http://women.state.ky.us>, or call the Kentucky History Center at (502) 564-1792.

Leadership East Kentucky now accepting applications

Leadership East Kentucky is now accepting applications for the Class of 2002. This will be the fourth class of the program which now has 101 alumni who all live and work in East Kentucky.

In 1998, as Governor Patton worked with local communities to improve their infrastructure and create jobs, he recognized the need to build the civic infrastructure of our communities as well by developing new leaders.

Having operated under the auspices of Leadership Kentucky for the first three years, the program now will be sponsored by a consortium of Community colleges in East Kentucky—Hazard, Prestonsburg, Southeast, Somerset, and Ashland.

The program has three broad goals:

- * to provide an opportunity for individuals to enhance their leadership skills,
- * to enable them to become more familiar with Eastern Kentucky,
- * to build a network within the region.

Applications are now being accepted and the deadline for submission is March 29, 2002. The program begins in June with a two-day opening retreat and participants then meet one day a month through December 2002.

The program is designed to enable people to drive in and out on the same day, thereby reducing the amount of time away from home and/or work and the cost of hotels and extra meals. Participants meet in a different community for each session to familiarize the class with various parts of East Kentucky. To date, they have met in 21 different communities and have seven more communities scheduled for 2002.

Topics for the sessions may include education, health, economic development, justice, and governance. In addition, Leadership East Kentucky provides training in various skills including collaboration and working in teams.

Participants in the program represent a variety of East Kentucky, both geographically and otherwise. We have had representatives in the program from business and industry, religion, education, higher education, arts and culture, government, non-profits, and private citizens.

The tuition is \$750 but the program has been able to provide scholarships or find a source within the community to sponsor an individual if necessary. Leadership East Kentucky is a program that is vital to the future of East Kentucky, growing leaders who in turn grow their communities.

LEADERSHIP EAST KENTUCKY

For further information or an application, contact:

Linda Gayheart

**PO Box 105, 370 Foxrun Ridge
Hindman, KY 41822**

606/785-0606 or 606/785-9009

email: gayheart@tgtel.com

**Applications are also available at
the Community Colleges.**

Message from the Executive Director



2001 was a very busy and exciting year for KCW.

We were so fortunate to conduct eight Town Meetings around the state, enabling us to hear from the women of Kentucky about the opportunities and challenges in their regions and lives. The report of these meetings is still available on our website at <http://women.state.ky.us> or call our offices at 502/564-6643 for a printed copy of the report.

Based on the feedback and findings from the Town Meetings, Governor Paul E. Patton launched the precedent-setting Governor's Task Force on the Economic Status of Kentucky's Women. The response to the Task Force and the Issue Committees that report to the Task Force has been tremendous, providing further verification that a project focusing on the economic future of Kentucky women is long overdue.

KCW also moved its offices for the second time in less than one year! Now located at 312 West Main Street in downtown Frankfort, we enjoy the amenities of our renovated 1860s historic two-story building with a full kitchen, two conference rooms, and a private courtyard (which will need a lot of work this spring). The Kentucky Commission on Women board and staff have accomplished a lot this past year.

In addition, KCW added Lori Kidwell as our new Communications & Legislation Manager. She will also be assisting with communications for the Kentucky Commission on Small Business Advocacy (in her spare time). Lori previously served as Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. A Lexington native, Lori received her BA from Georgetown College and her Masters of Public Administration from the University of Kentucky.

2002 presents greater challenges to the Kentucky Commission on Women and to the programs and services provided by KCW. We look forward to your continued participation and support to make 2002 another productive and successful year for the Commission on Women.

COMMISSION CONNECTION

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON
WOMEN

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